



DC  
COMICS™

23.4

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES! #2!

# METALLO™

COMICS™

#1



NOV 2013

RATED T TEEN

DCCOMICS.COM

Shawn W. Kulik



NO LIGHT.

NO SOUND.

LOTS OF P.O.W.'S  
CRACK AFTER DAYS  
OR WEEKS OF  
ISOLATION.

I'VE BEEN HERE  
MORE THAN TWO  
MONTHS.

LONG ENOUGH  
TO DRIVE A MAN  
INSANE.

BUT IT ONLY  
MAKES ME MORE  
FOCUSED.

DISTANCE TO OBJECTIVE: 3451 KM



AFTER ALL, I'VE  
LIVED IN DARKNESS  
BEFORE.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS EARLIER.

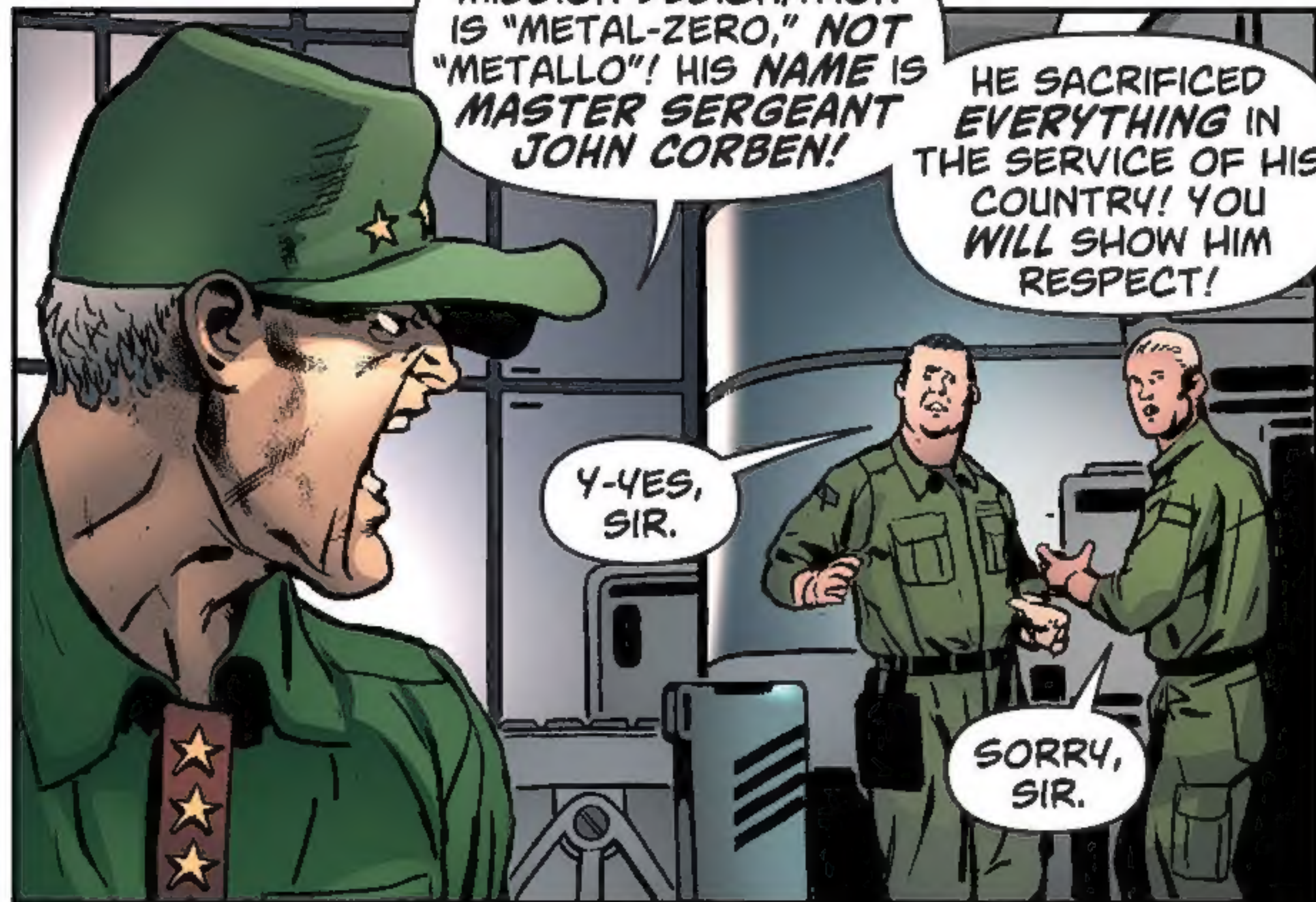
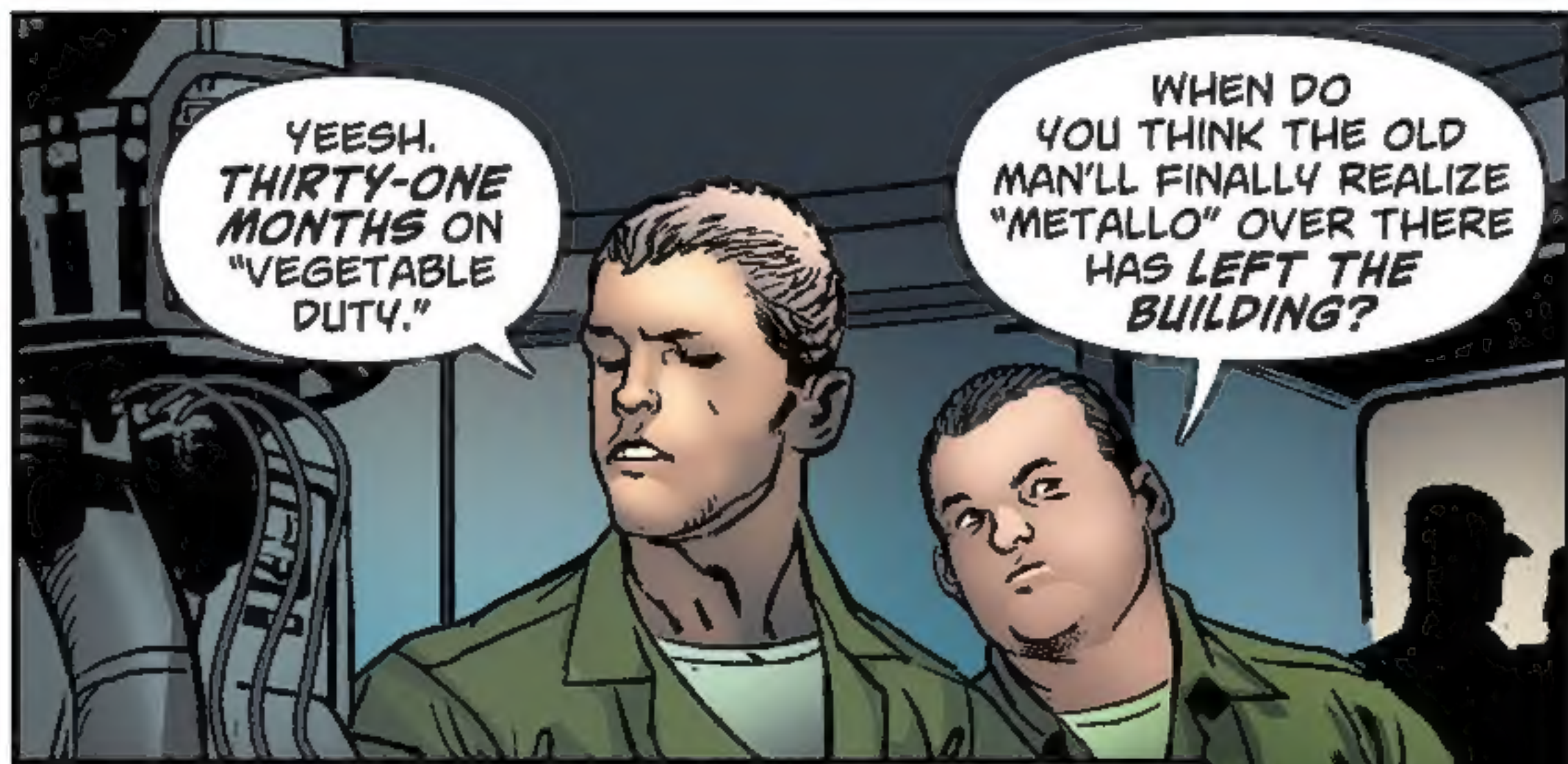
ANY  
PROGRESS,  
MYERS?

SORRY,  
GENERAL. THAT'S  
A NEGATIVE.

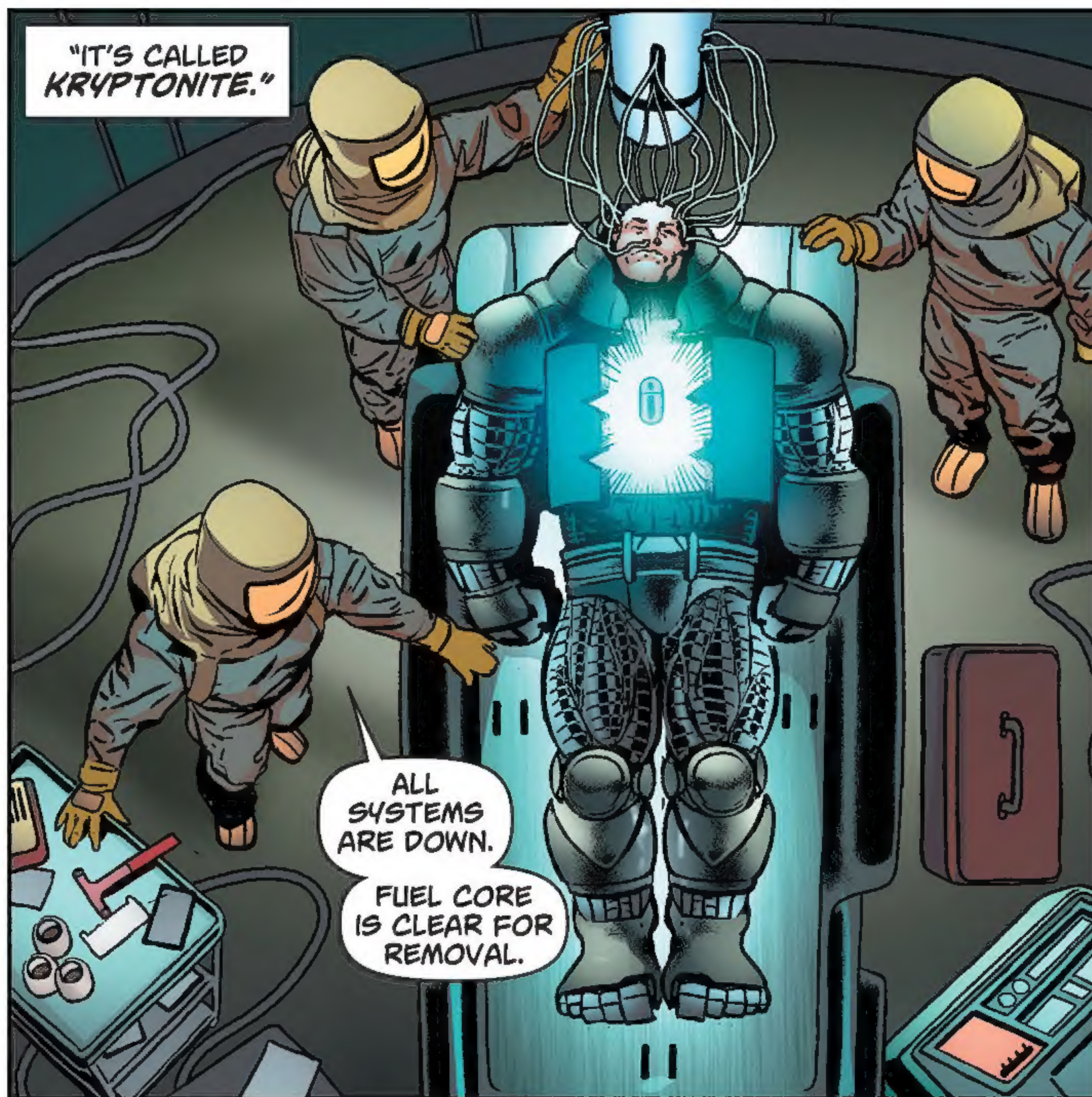
STILL NO  
CHANGE.

DC COMICS  
**UNLEASHES**  
**METALLO**  
**FULL METAL JACKET**  
SHOLLY FISCH STEVE PUGH  
WRITER ARTIST  
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COLORS  
TAYLOR ESPOSITO AARON KUDER  
LETTERS W/DANIEL BROWN  
COVER  
CHRIS CONROY MATT IDELSON  
EDITOR GROUP EDITOR









"IT'S CALLED KRYPTONITE."

ALL SYSTEMS ARE DOWN.  
FUEL CORE IS CLEAR FOR REMOVAL.



CAREFUL, NOW. THIS IS TOXIC ENOUGH TO GIVE YOUR GRAND-CHILDREN CANCER.

WHERE'S MY SECURE CONTAINMENT?

RIGHT HERE, SIR.



KRYPTONITE FUEL IN PLACE.

I DON'T KNOW, SIR. DO YOU THINK THIS CAN WORK?

NO WAY TO KNOW. BUT, REALLY, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?



BRINGING SYSTEMS ONLINE.

MONITORING AUTONOMIC RESPONSE.



"THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF GOD..."


COME ON, JOHN.

YOU CAN DO THIS.




"WAKE UP."





THAT FIRST  
KRYPTONITE  
RUSH WAS...

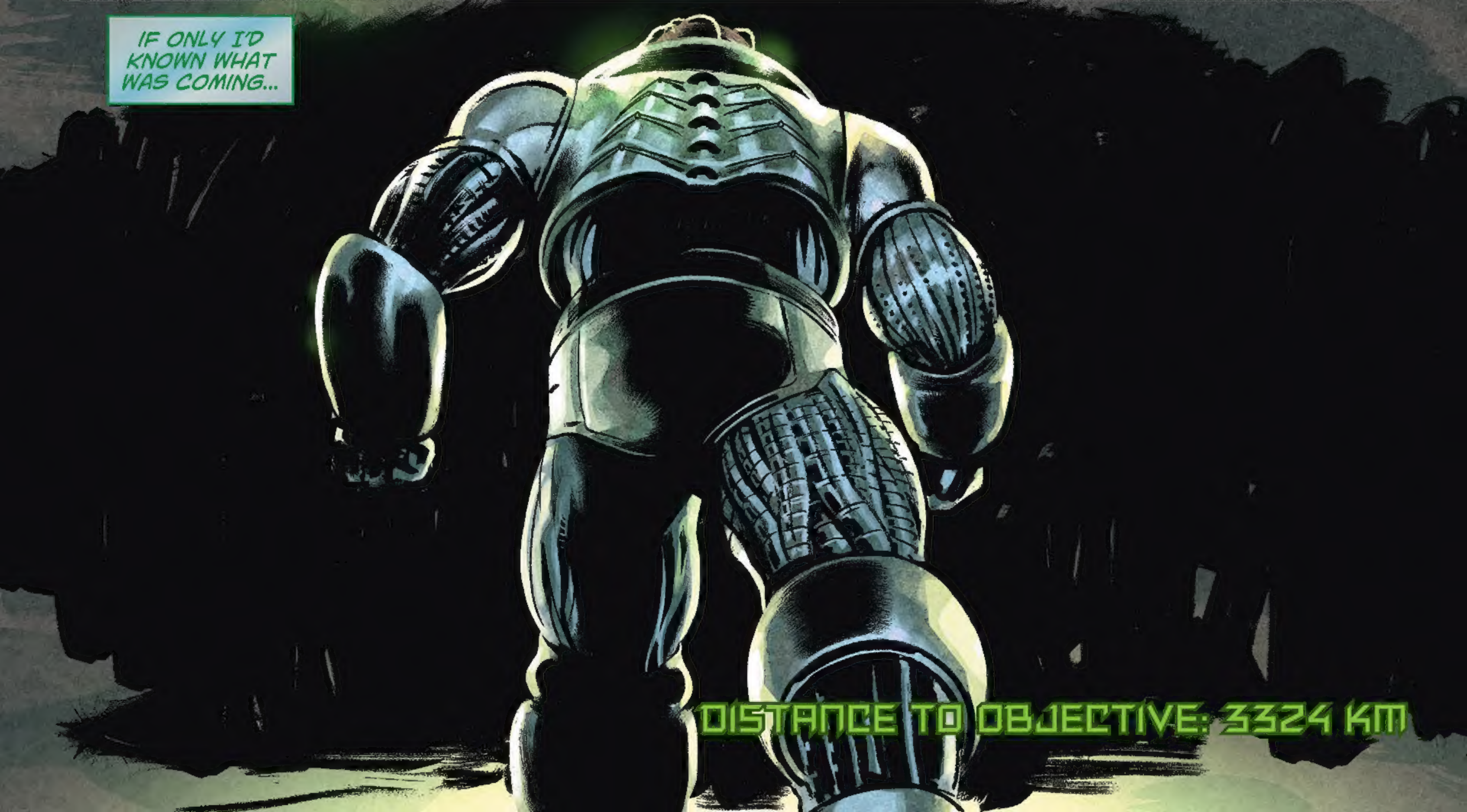
...BEYOND  
WORDS.



I FELT INVINCIBLE!  
LIKE NOTHING  
COULD TOUCH ME.



YEAH,  
RIGHT.



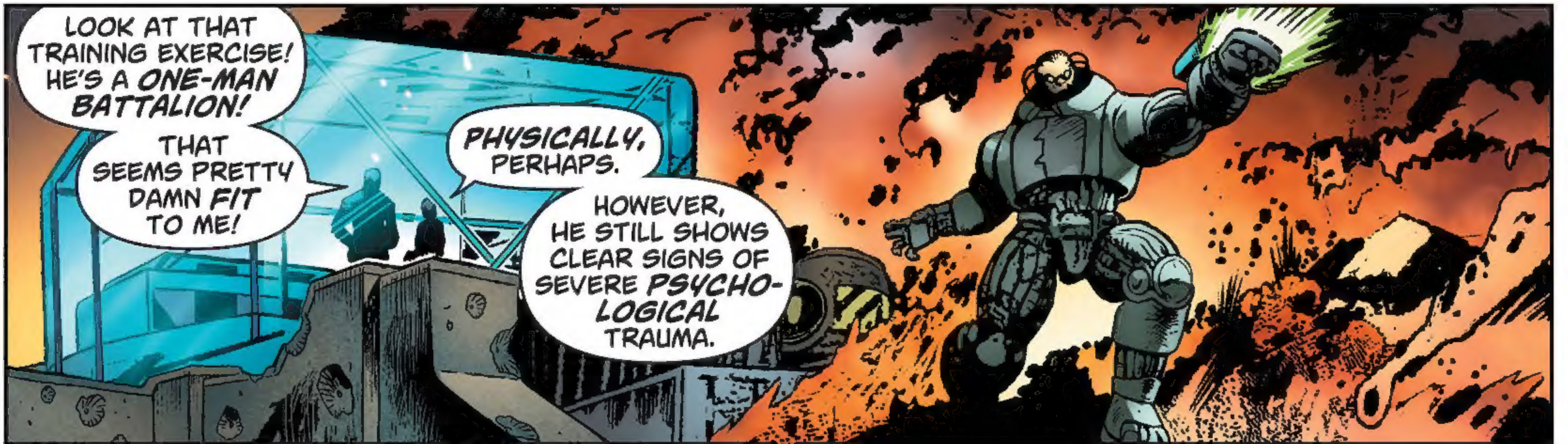
IF ONLY I'D  
KNOWN WHAT  
WAS COMING...

DISTANCE TO OBJECTIVE: 3324 KM





"HE'S 'UNFIT'?  
ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?"

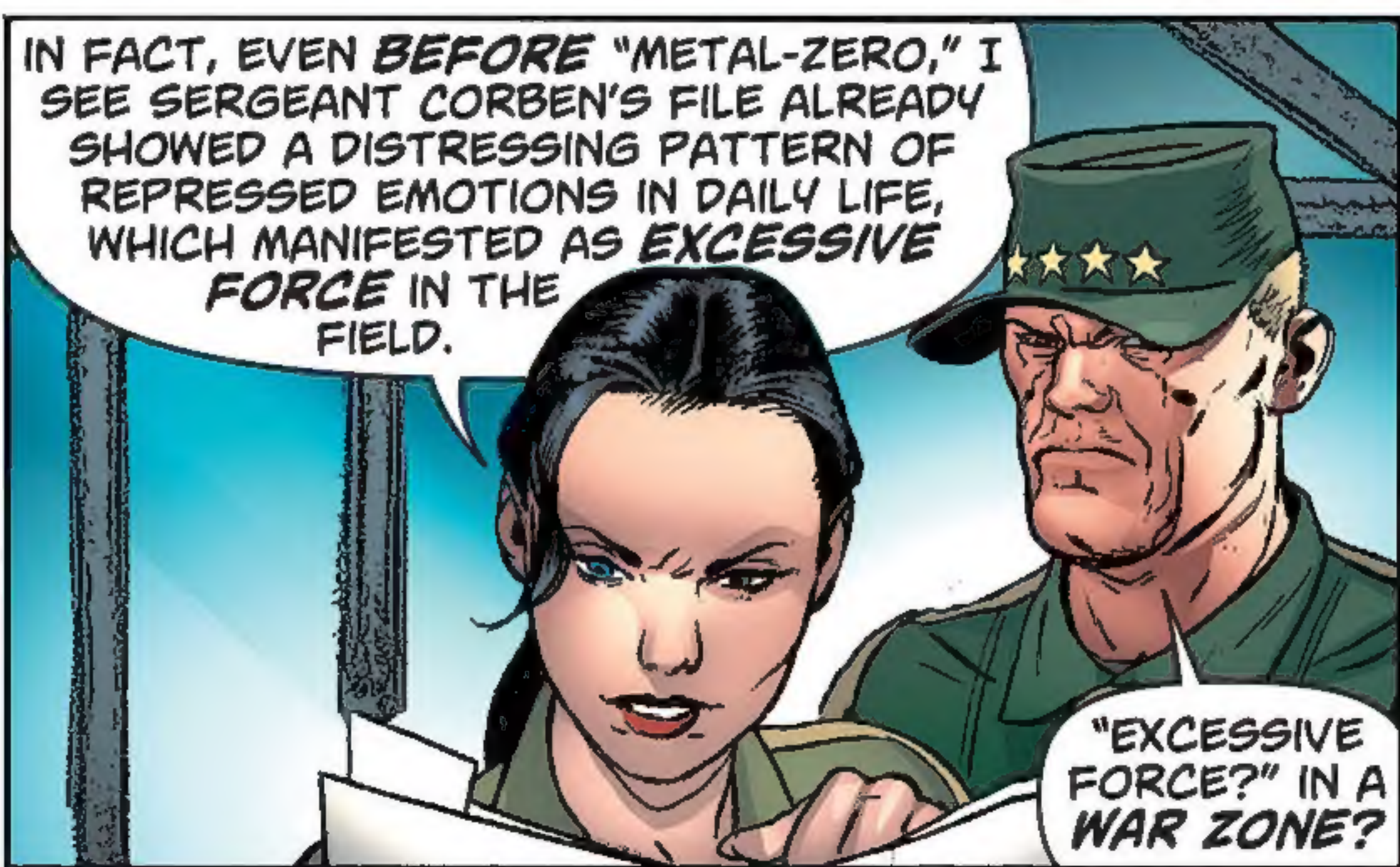


LOOK AT THAT  
TRAINING EXERCISE!  
HE'S A **ONE-MAN  
BATTALION!**

THAT  
SEEMS PRETTY  
DAMN FIT  
TO ME!

PHYSICALLY,  
PERHAPS.

HOWEVER,  
HE STILL SHOWS  
CLEAR SIGNS OF  
SEVERE **PSYCHO-  
LOGICAL  
TRAUMA.**



IN FACT, EVEN *BEFORE* "METAL-ZERO," I  
SEE SERGEANT CORBEN'S FILE ALREADY  
SHOWED A DISTRESSING PATTERN OF  
REPPRESSED EMOTIONS IN DAILY LIFE,  
WHICH MANIFESTED AS **EXCESSIVE  
FORCE** IN THE  
FIELD.

"EXCESSIVE  
FORCE?" IN A  
WAR ZONE?



BOTTOM LINE, SIR: IF  
YOU INSIST ON SENDING  
SERGEANT CORBEN BACK  
INTO ACTION, I CAN'T BE  
HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR  
WHAT HAPPENS.

YOU'RE **NOT  
RESPONSIBLE,**  
LAZAR! I AM!



YOU'RE  
OUTRANKED,  
CAPTAIN, AND  
OVERRULED!

THAT MAN  
DESERVES A  
CHANCE TO SHOW  
WHAT HE CAN  
DO!



WE'VE GOT  
TROOPS OVER-  
SEAS WHO NEED  
SUPPORT.



"--AND JOHN CORBEN IS GOING TO GIVE IT TO THEM!"

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

QURAC.

GHAA!

UH, I MEAN... S-SORRY, SIR. YOU MUST BE SERGEANT CORBEN. METALLO.

THAT'S "METAL-ZERO."

OH. SORRY. THEY, UH, THEY BRIEFED US YOU WERE COMING, BUT, WELL... IT'S HARD TO BE PREPARED...

DROP IT. GIVE ME A SITREP.

OKAY. RIGHT.

WE WERE SENT ON A SEARCH-AND-DESTROY MISSION, TO NEUTRALIZE AN INSURGENT ARMS CACHE.

SO?

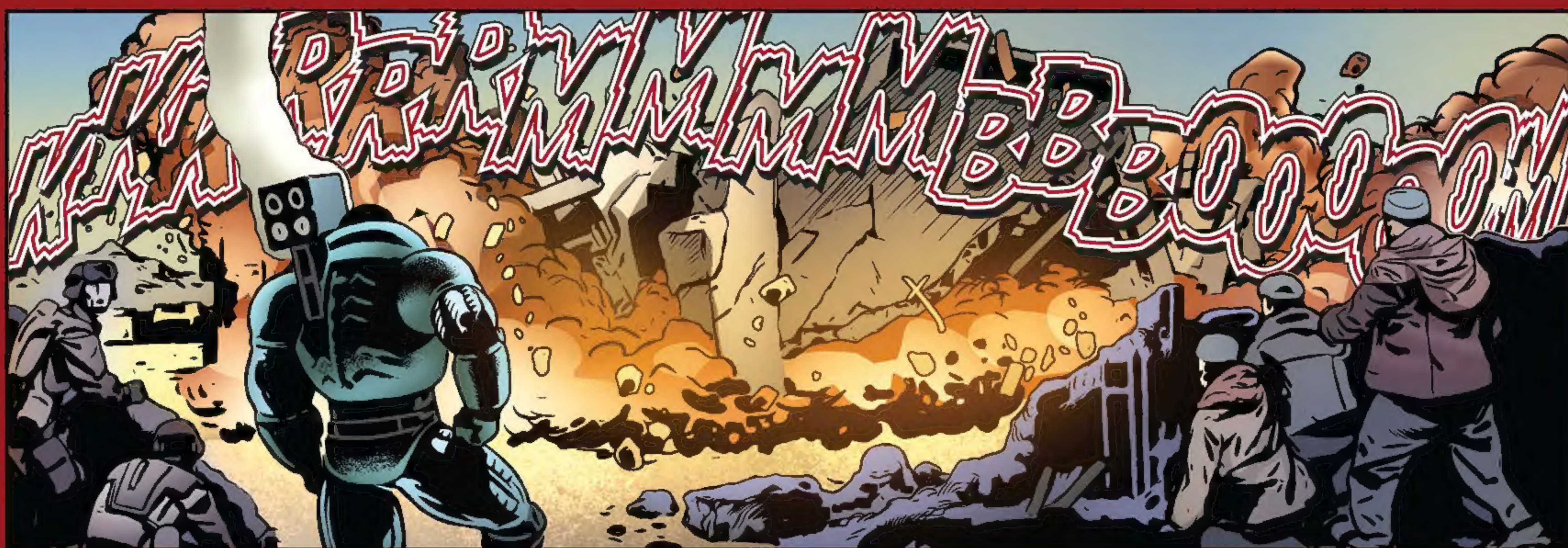
PROBLEM IS, THE INSURGENTS STASHED THE ORDNANCE UNDER A HOSPITAL. SO NOW, WE'VE GOT A BAND OF HOSTILES HOLED UP INSIDE, USING OVER A HUNDRED NONCOMBATANT STAFF AND PATIENTS AS HUMAN SHIELDS!

UH-HUH. NO PROBLEM.

SO THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO? EXCELLENT!


WHAT'S THE PLAN? DO YOU HAVE SOME KIND OF SELECTIVE TARGETING OR CLOAKING DEVICE TO GET INSIDE?







OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.



ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!

I GOT RESULTS.

YOU MEAN LIKE YOUR "RESULTS" IN THE VILLAGE YOU RAZED LAST WEEK? OR THE INFORMANT YOU INTERROGATED?

THEY FOUND PIECES OF HIM SPREAD OVER A THREE-BLOCK RADIUS!

BUT THIS HOSPITAL FIASCO TOPS THEM ALL!

CELL PHONE VIDEOS OF YOUR LITTLE STUNT ARE SPREADING ACROSS THE INTERNET LIKE WILDFIRE! PROTESTS AGAINST "U.S. WAR CRIMES" ARE EVERYWHERE!

DID YOU EVEN CONSIDER HOW THE PENTAGON WOULD REACT?

...WAIT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THIS CAN'T GO ON. I HAVE MY ORDERS.

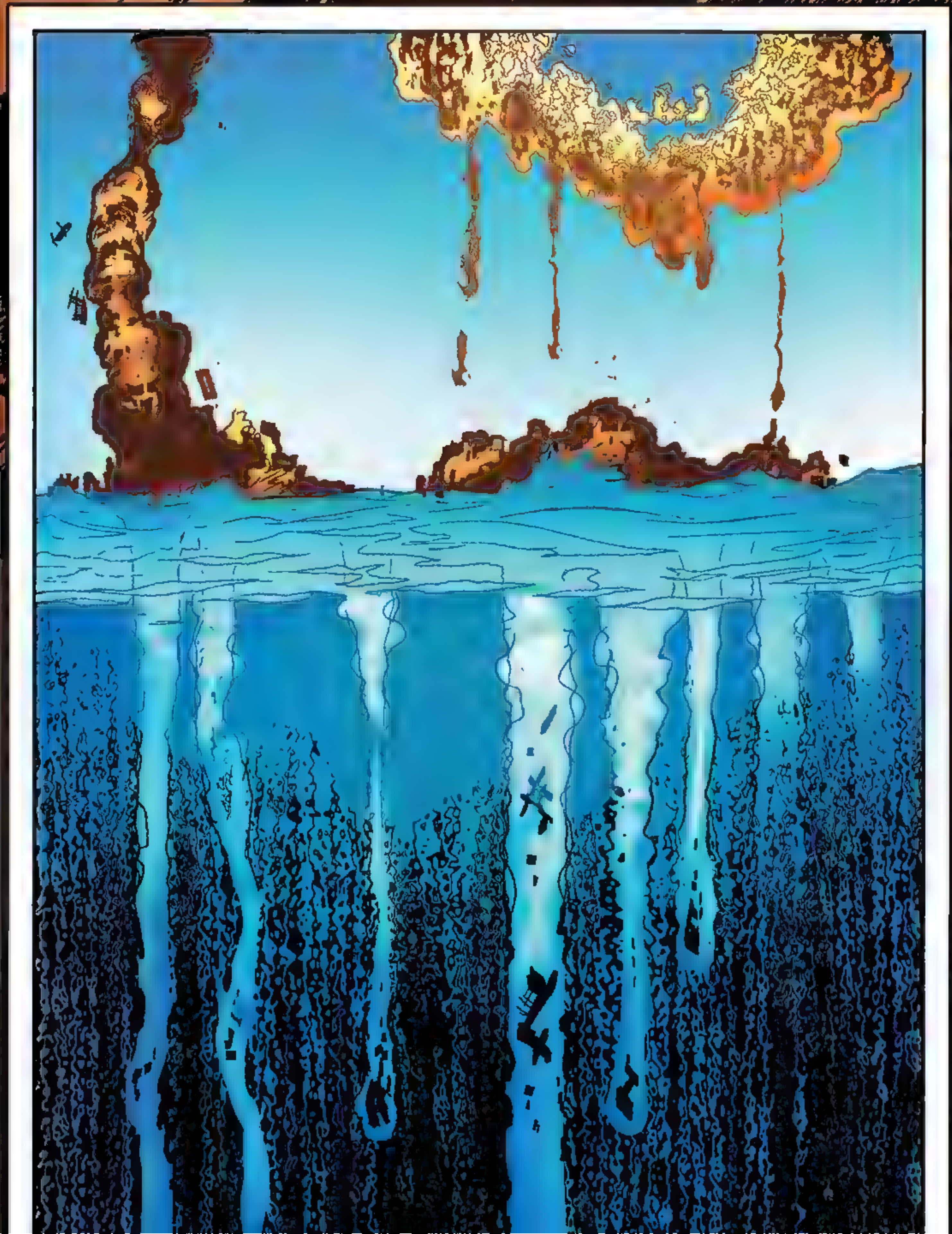
I'M SORRY.

**KRRRNNCH**

AN UNMANNED DRONE...

THE JOHN CORBEN I USED TO KNOW DESERVED BETTER.





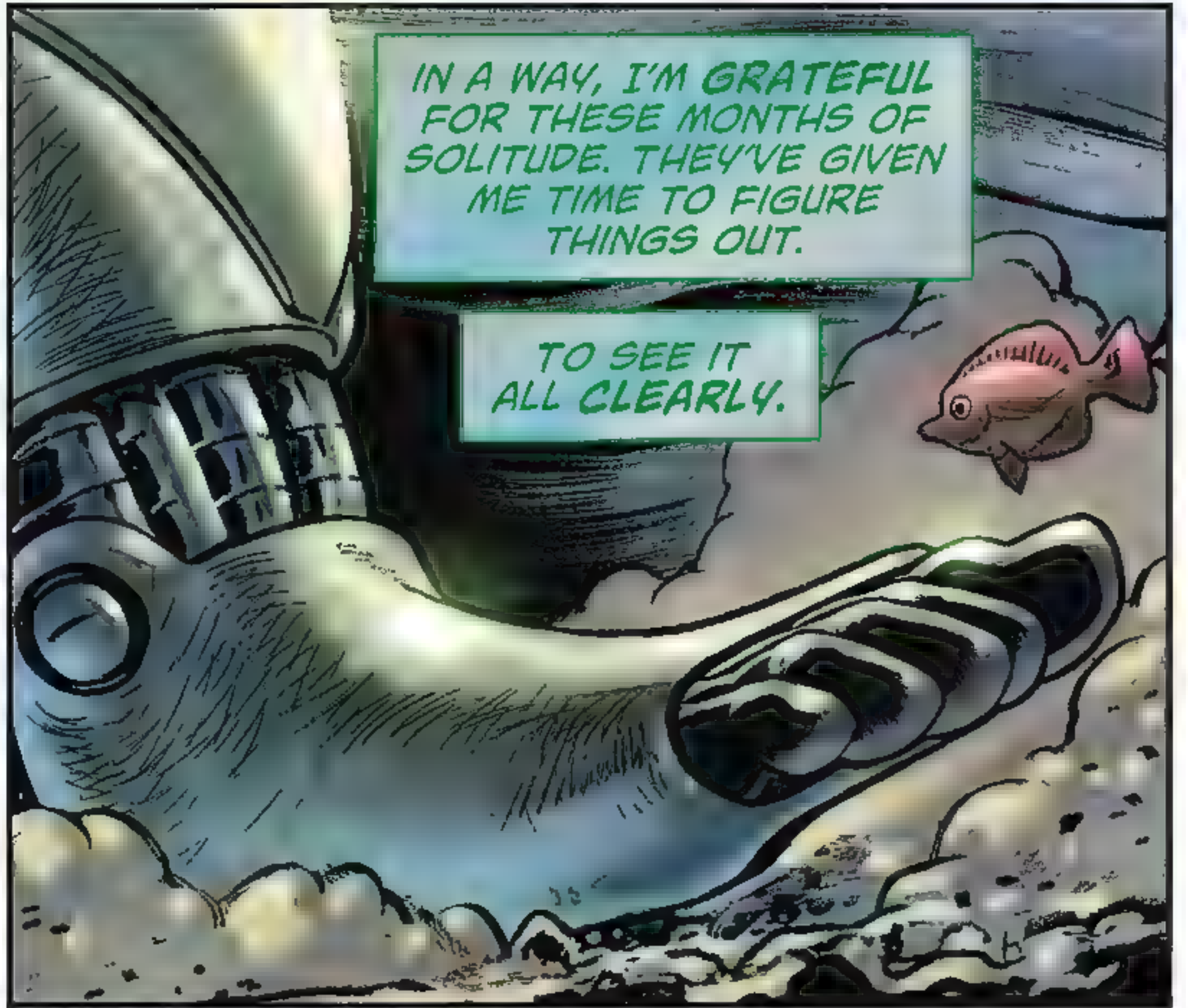




I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. THEY TRIED TO KILL ME!

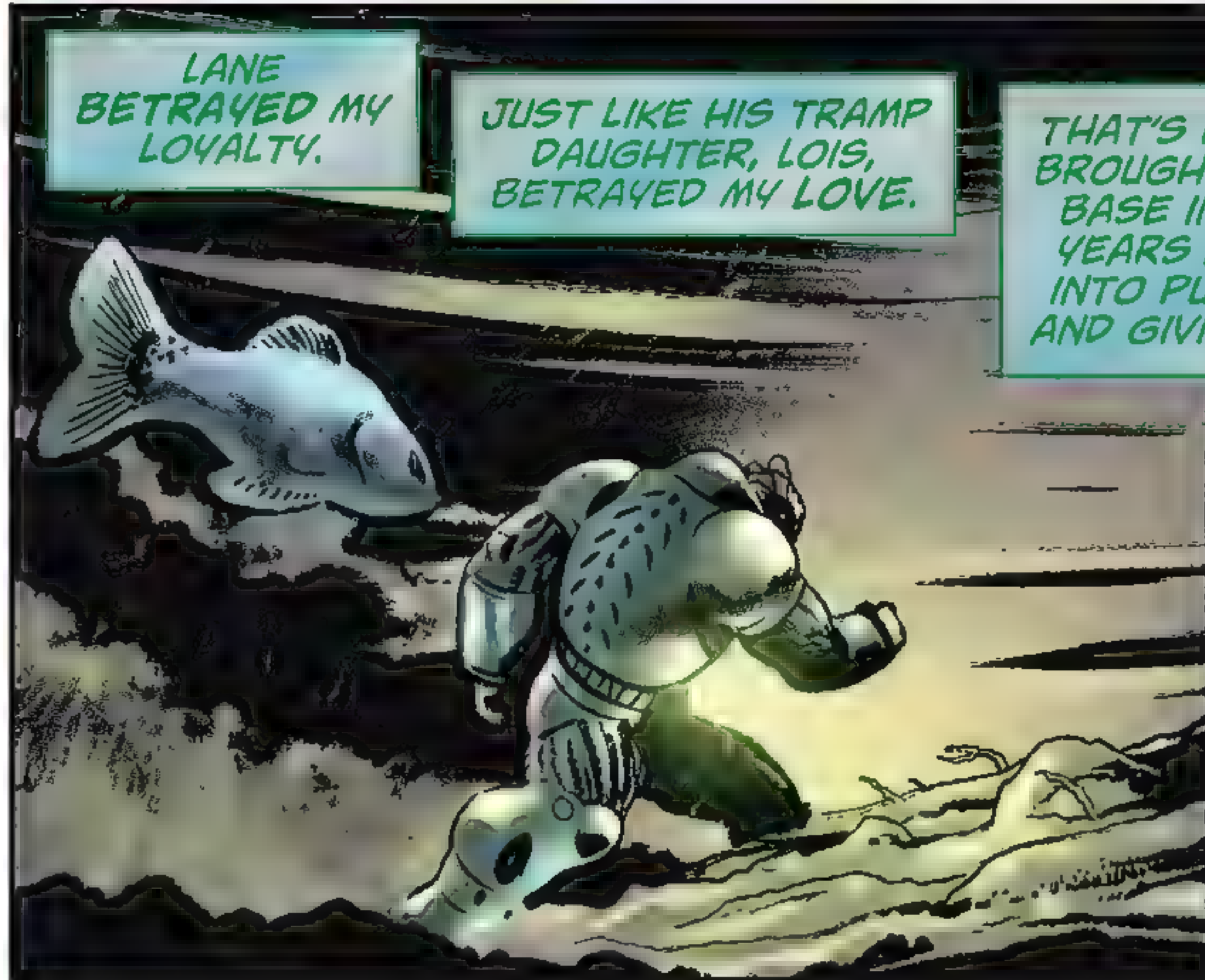
MY OWN GOVERNMENT TRIED TO KILL ME!

SAM LANE TRIED TO KILL ME!



IN A WAY, I'M GRATEFUL FOR THESE MONTHS OF SOLITUDE. THEY'VE GIVEN ME TIME TO FIGURE THINGS OUT.

TO SEE IT ALL CLEARLY.



LANE BETRAYED MY LOYALTY.

JUST LIKE HIS TRAMP DAUGHTER, LOIS, BETRAYED MY LOVE.

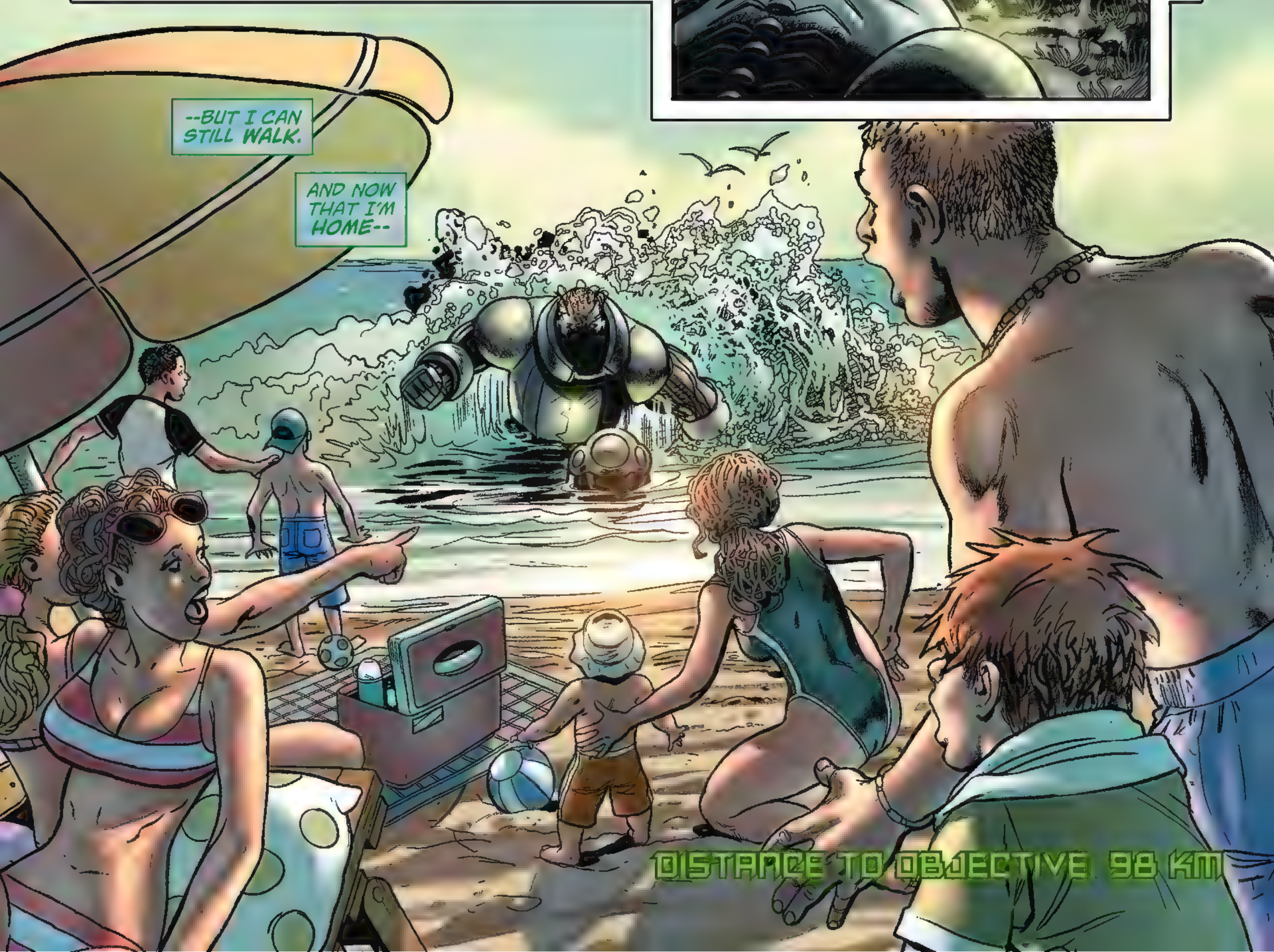
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY LANE BROUGHT SUPERMAN TO THE BASE IN THE FIRST PLACE, YEARS AGO--TO TRICK ME INTO PUTTING ON THIS SUIT AND GIVING UP MY HUMANITY!

AND THEN HE KILLED ME.



BUT I FOOLED THEM ALL! MY MECHANICAL BODY DISTILLS OXYGEN FROM WATER. IT WITHSTANDS THE WATER PRESSURE. IT NEVER GETS TIRED.

I MIGHT BE TOO HEAVY TO SWIM ACROSS AN OCEAN--



--BUT I CAN STILL WALK.

AND NOW THAT I'M HOME--

DISTANCE TO OBJECTIVE 98 KM



--EVERYONE WHO  
BETRAYED ME IS  
GOING TO PAY!

**BRING  
ME SAM  
LANE!**

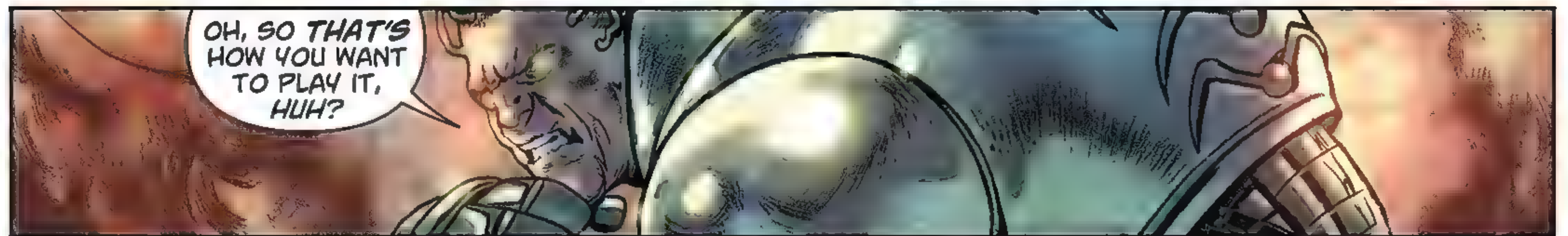
DISTANCE TO OBJECTIVE: 0-KM



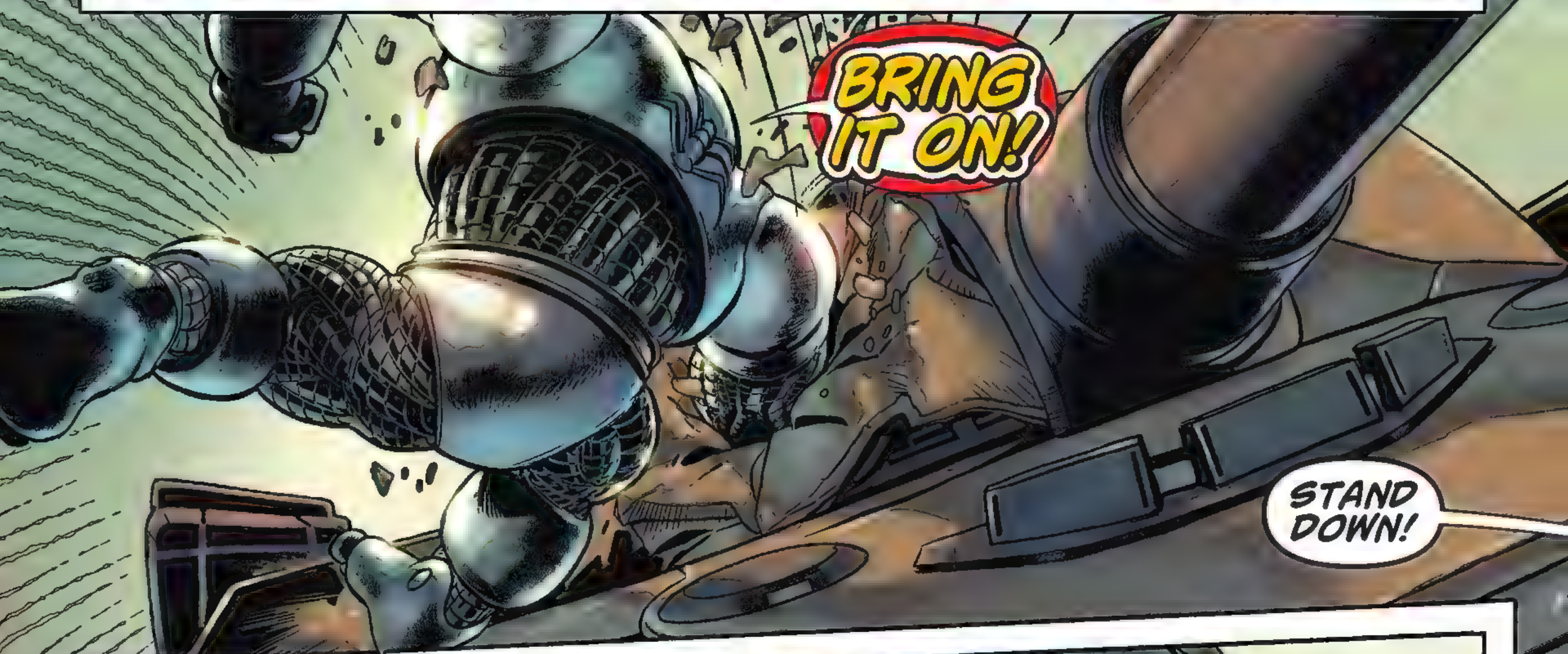


LANE!  
COME OUT,  
YOU COW--

**THOOOOM**



OH, SO THAT'S  
HOW YOU WANT  
TO PLAY IT,  
HUH?



**BRING  
IT ON!**

**STAND  
DOWN!**



YOU  
WANT ME?  
HERE I  
AM!



BUT  
I WON'T  
SACRIFICE MY  
MEN TO YOUR  
RAMPAGE!

YOU  
MEAN LIKE  
YOU SACRIFICED  
ME?!

EASY,  
SON.

I'M  
NOT YOUR  
"SON!"





I TRUSTED YOU! AND WHAT DID YOU DO?

YOU BETRAYED ME! TURNED ME INTO THIS...*THING*! USED YOUR DAUGHTER TO CRUSH MY HEART!

HOW DARE YOU?!

FOR YEARS, I GAVE YOU EVERY OPPORTUNITY! HELL, I EVEN APPROVED YOU AS A WORTHY MATCH FOR MY OWN DAUGHTER!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BETRAYED MY TRUST! MINE, AND THIS COUNTRY'S!



YOUR ACTIONS OVERSEAS--AND HERE, TODAY--MAKE IT ALL TOO OBVIOUS THAT YOU'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.



WHEN ORDERS CAME DOWN FROM THE VERY TOP TO NEUTRALIZE METAL-ZERO AS A THREAT, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO AGREE.

I DIDN'T LIKE PUSHING THAT BUTTON, BUT I DID MY DUTY!

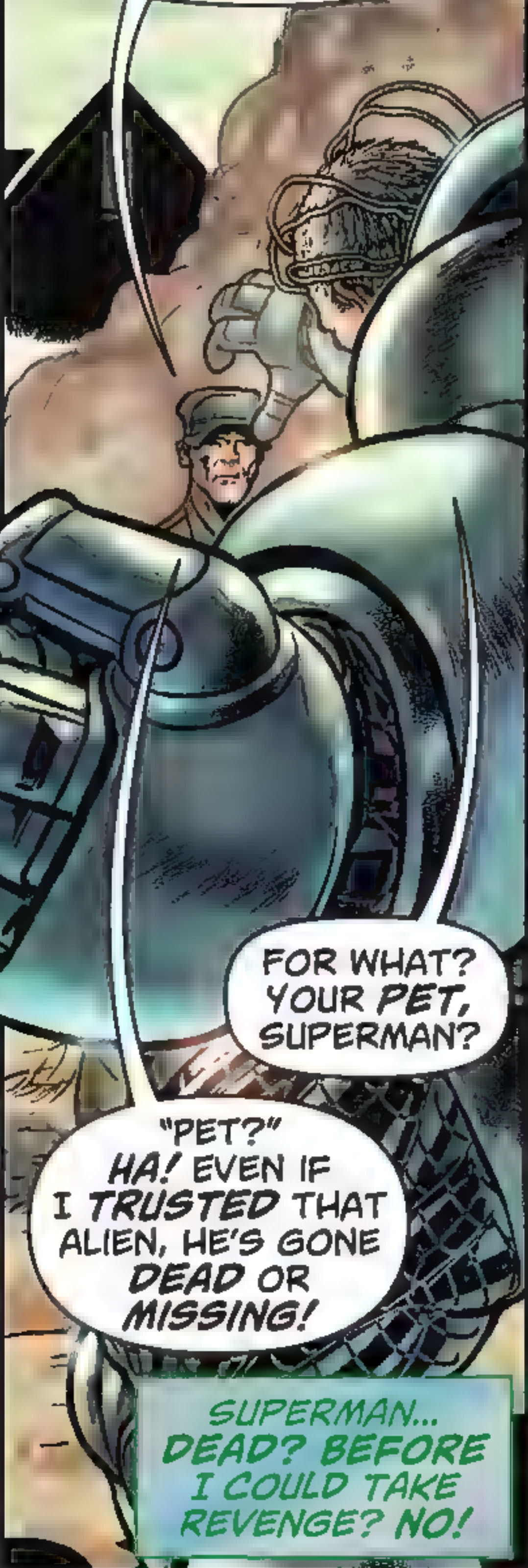


ALWAYS HIDING BEHIND YOUR DUTY, AREN'T YOU?

WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND. I'M GOING TO ENJOY SHREDDING YOU TO BLOODY RIBBONS!

BUT THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'M GOING TO DO TO YOUR DAUGHTER...

DREAM ON, "METALLO." WHILE YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING THIS LITTLE *TEA PARTY*, I'VE BEEN GETTING YOU INTO POSITION.



FOR WHAT? YOUR PET, SUPERMAN?

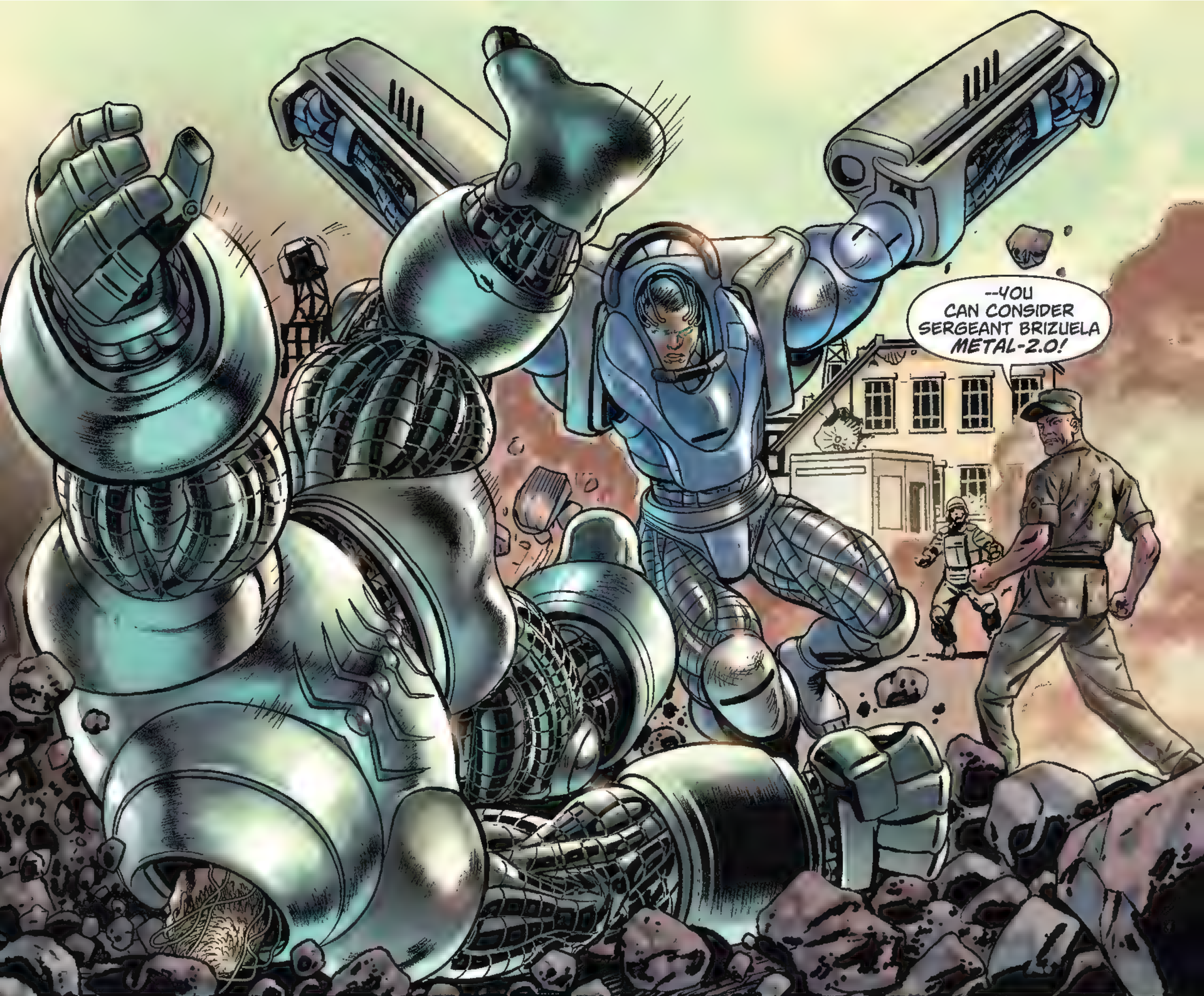
"PET?" HA! EVEN IF I TRUSTED THAT ALIEN, HE'S GONE DEAD OR MISSING!

SUPERMAN... DEAD? BEFORE I COULD TAKE REVENGE? NO!

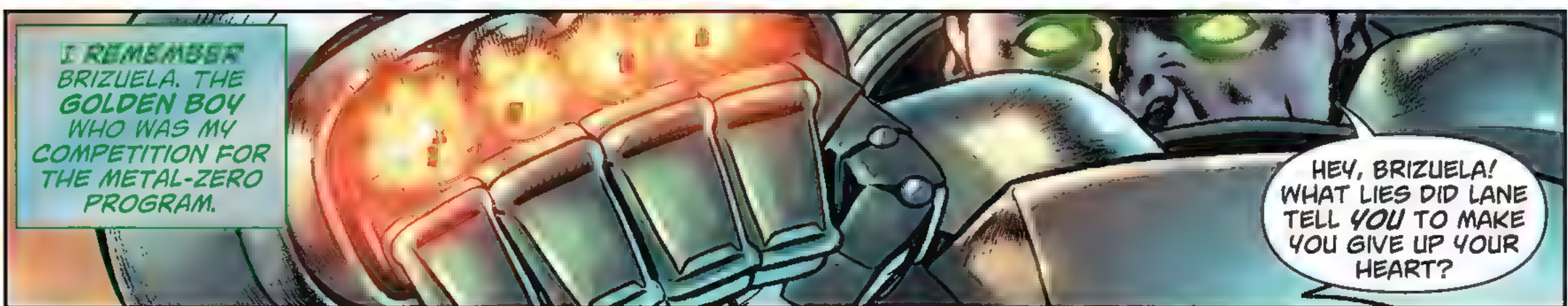
BUT DID YOU REALLY THINK PROJECT: STEEL SOLDIER ENDED, JUST BECAUSE YOU TOOK A NAP?

IF YOU WERE METAL-ZERO--



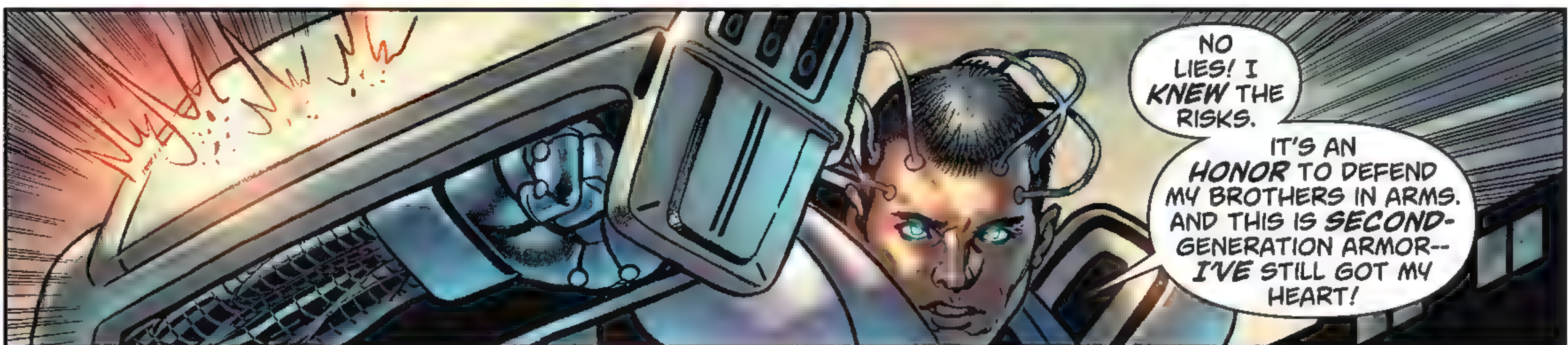


--YOU  
CAN CONSIDER  
SERGEANT BRIZUELA  
METAL-2.0!



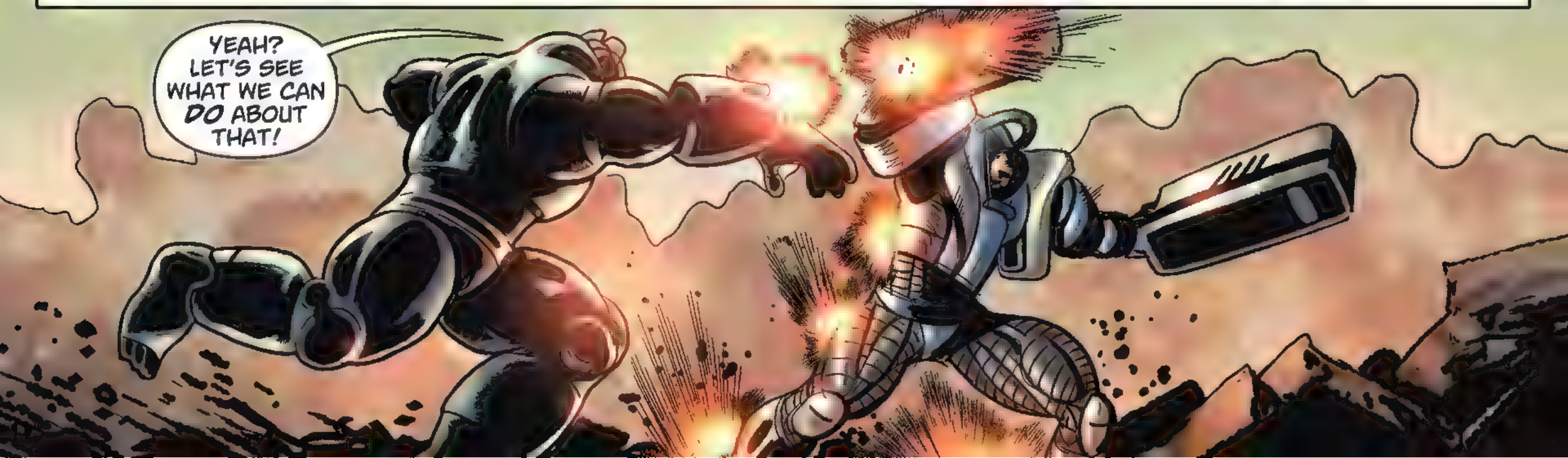
I REMEMBER  
BRIZUELA. THE  
GOLDEN BOY  
WHO WAS MY  
COMPETITION FOR  
THE METAL-ZERO  
PROGRAM.

HEY, BRIZUELA!  
WHAT LIES DID LANE  
TELL YOU TO MAKE  
YOU GIVE UP YOUR  
HEART?



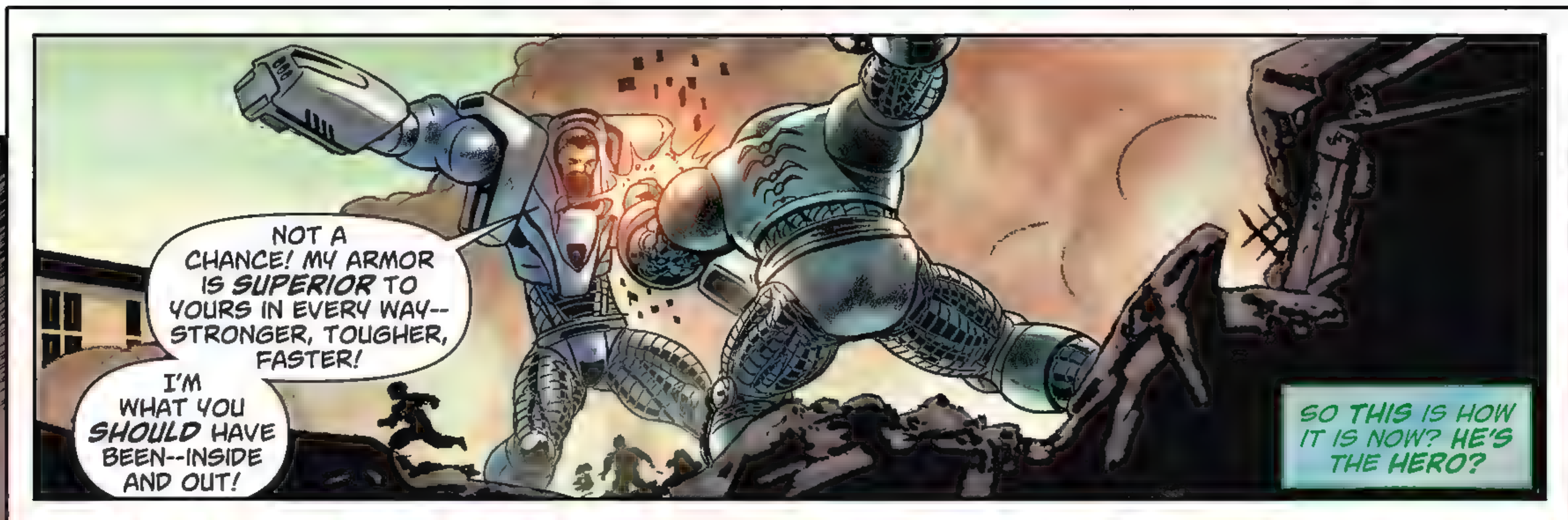
NO  
LIES! I  
KNEW THE  
RISKS.

IT'S AN  
HONOR TO DEFEND  
MY BROTHERS IN ARMS.  
AND THIS IS **SECOND-**  
GENERATION ARMOR--  
I'VE STILL GOT MY  
HEART!



YEAH?  
LET'S SEE  
WHAT WE CAN  
DO ABOUT  
THAT!



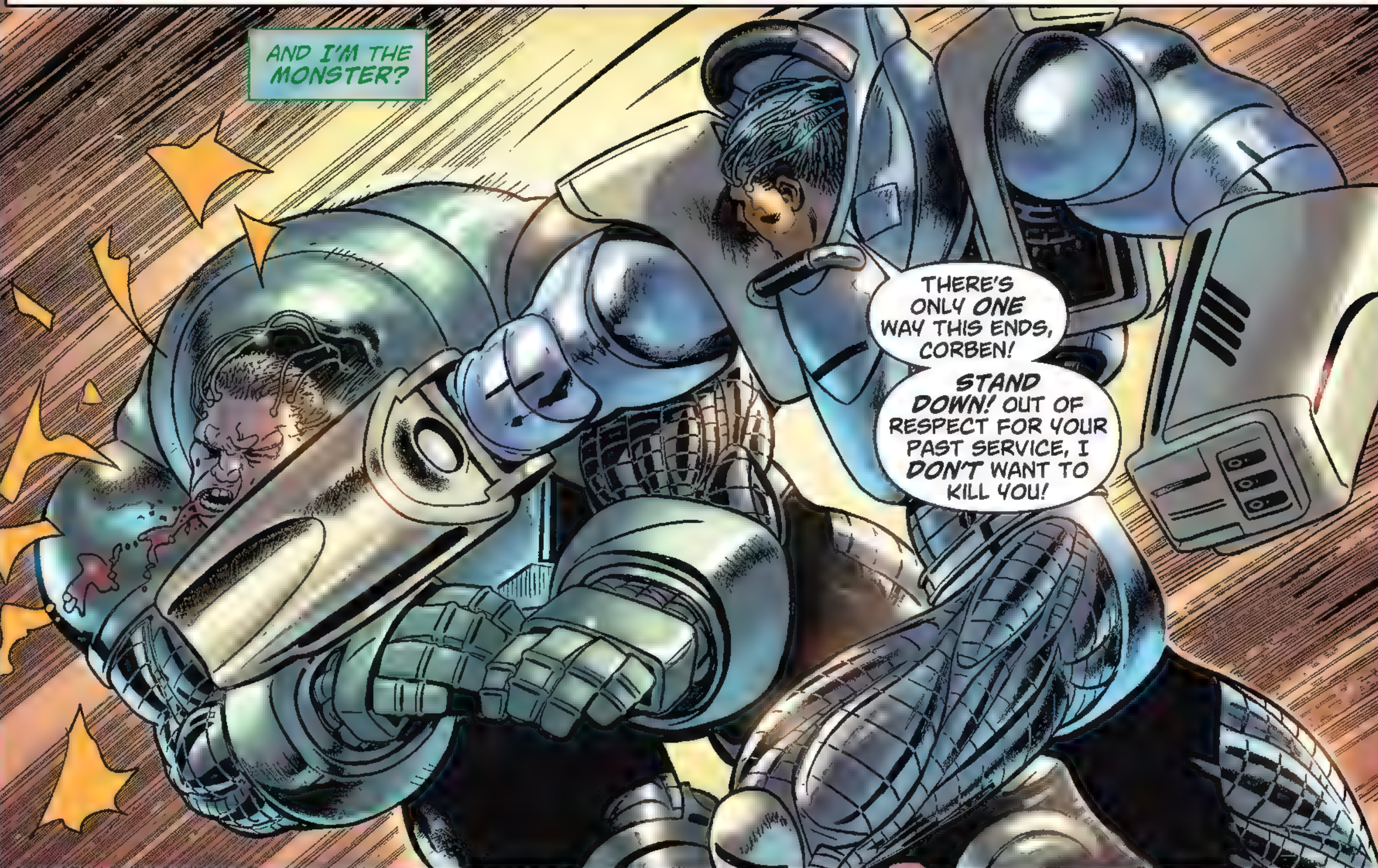


NOT A CHANCE! MY ARMOR IS **SUPERIOR** TO YOURS IN EVERY WAY-- STRONGER, TOUGHER, FASTER!

I'M WHAT YOU **SHOULD** HAVE BEEN--INSIDE AND OUT!

SO THIS IS HOW IT IS NOW? HE'S THE HERO?

AND I'M THE MONSTER?



THERE'S ONLY **ONE** WAY THIS ENDS, CORBEN!

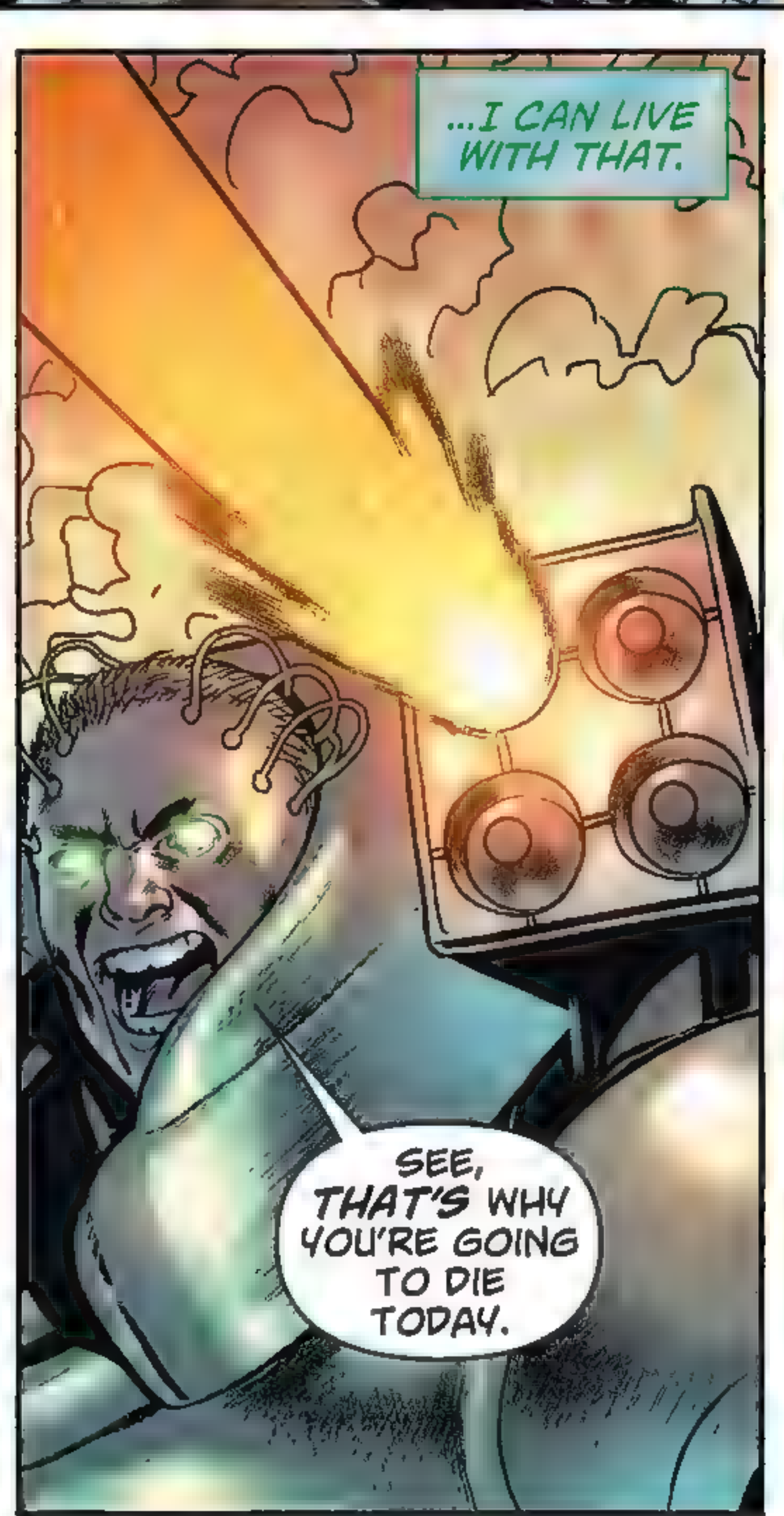
**STAND DOWN!** OUT OF RESPECT FOR YOUR PAST SERVICE, I **DON'T** WANT TO KILL YOU!



WELL...

GOOD TO KNOW.

**BOOM!**



...I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.

SEE, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE TODAY.





BECAUSE  
YOU DON'T  
WANT TO  
KILL--

**MARGH!**

--BUT I  
DO!

**SHIT!**

MY G--

GET A  
MEDIC IN  
HERE!

MOBILIZE A  
SUPPORT  
TEAM!



N...NO!  
G...GET TO THE  
SH...SHELTERS!  
TAKE C...COVER!



BRIZUELA--!

COME ON, SIR!  
WE'VE GOTTA  
PULL OUT--  
NOW!



"SHELTER?"  
YOU THINK A  
**SHELTER** WILL  
KEEP THEM SAFE?  
I'LL--

OH,  
NO.



M...MY  
ORDERS ARE...TO  
N-NEUTRALIZE YOU  
AS...A THREAT...AND  
THAT'S W-WHAT I'M  
GOING...TO DO.

SELF-  
DESTRUCT  
ENGAGED

E-EVEN  
IF





LATER.

ANOTHER  
PIECE OVER  
HERE!

PUT  
IT WITH THE  
OTHERS.

SIR,  
THE MEN HAVE  
BEEN POLICING  
THE AREA FOR  
HOURS...

I KNOW HOW **COMMITTED**  
YOU'VE BEEN TO SERGEANT  
CORBEN ALL THESE YEARS. BUT,  
CONSIDERING ALL OF THE DAMAGE  
TO THE BASE, SHOULDN'T WE  
ASSIGN THEM **HIGHER-  
PRIORITY** DUTIES?

**NOTHING** IS  
HIGHER PRIORITY,  
MYERS. NOT UNTIL  
**EVERY** SCRAP FROM  
THOSE CYBORGS IS  
ACCOUNTED FOR.

BUT WHY? WE  
CAN'T POSSIBLY  
**REPAIR** THEM  
AFTER ALL OF  
THIS...

**REPAIR  
THEM?**

I WANT TO  
MAKE **SURE**  
METALLO'S  
**DEAD.**

BECAUSE IF  
THERE'S EVEN A  
**SHADOW** OF A  
DOUBT THAT HE  
SURVIVED--



"--HEAVEN  
HELP US  
ALL."

SO WHY'D  
YOU GUYS PULL ME  
OUT OF THERE,  
ANYWAY?

TALENT.

DAMAGED  
BAD.

CHEATED OUT OF  
MY REVENGE.

FOR  
NOW.

WE'VE  
BEEN SCOUTING  
FOR NEW BLOOD. WHEN  
I SAW THE **TERROR** YOU  
STRUCK THROUGH THAT  
ARMY BASE...

I KNEW  
WE COULD  
USE YOU.

THERE'S NO GOING  
BACK NOW. MY OLD  
LIFE IS OVER.

YEAH? WELL,  
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK  
I NEED **YOU**? SOME  
FREAK DRESSED UP LIKE A  
**SCARECROW**--

NO MORE JOHN  
CORBEN.

PLEASE.  
DESPITE MY CHOICE OF  
CLOTHING, I AM STILL A  
**PSYCHOLOGIST**.

A CAREER  
SOLDIER LIKE YOUR-  
SELF, SUDDENLY **ALONE**--  
CUT OFF FROM YOUR  
ENTIRE **SUPPORT**  
**NETWORK**?

NOT EVEN  
**METAL-ZERO**.

I'M OFFERING YOU  
THE CHANCE TO JOIN  
A **NEW ARMY**. A **NEW**  
**BROTHERHOOD**.

MY ASSOCIATES  
CAN **REPAIR** YOUR  
BROKEN BODY. AND,  
BETTER YET--

--THEY  
CAN OFFER AN  
**OPPORTUNITY**.

WELCOME  
TO THE **SECRET**  
**SOCIETY**.

FROM  
NOW ON--

--I'M  
**METALLO**.

END



